

The State of Maryland, in commemoration of the founding of the Province three hundred years ago, is erecting at Annapolis, a Hall of Records. This structure is planned to house, not only such records as have survived the vicissitudes of the past, but also documents of our own day, and of the future, which will themselves in time, become valuable material for the historian.

Although almost all the European countries now preserve their records in separate buildings, especially designed for the purpose, Maryland, so far as I have been able to learn, is the first of our States to have such a building. A number of other States have separate and admirably administered Departments of Archives, but their material, though often very extensive, is almost always inconveniently housed in parts of public buildings designed primarily for the accommodation of state libraries, historical societies, or the courts.

In the preliminary survey of the subject, together with Mr. Trader, I visited several of the most important of these departments, and while we obtained much helpful information as to details of method and equipment, I found little that had a direct bearing on the planning of a small building intended exclusively for archives.

The one really adequate depository for public documents in this country will be the great Archives Building, now being erected by the Federal Government in Washington. The need for some structure of this sort was first brought to the attention of Congress in 1810, but it was not until a few years ago that an appropriation for the work was finally made. Although this magnificent building is very inspiring, actually its requirements